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Belgium and Luxembourg.

ONE of the results of the great war which has not been very popularly noticed has been the economic union of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg with Belgium. Luxembourg's history since 1914 has been a very quiet one. Much sympathy for the Duchy was felt in America when the German armies made Luxembourg their own, and such reports as came from Luxembourg were to the effect that the sentiments of the people were favorable to the allied cause. Naturally, such would be the case. But whatever the sentiments were, they were never well-advertised. Luxembourg appears to have no press agent, no department of propaganda. Likewise, the changes which have taken place in the Grand Duchy since the war ended have not been noisily proclaimed to the world.

Something of the new connection between Belgium and the Grand Duchy is told in the Economic Review of London in its issue of February 17. The article on the subject includes the following:

"The Belgian chamber has ratified the economic convention with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg by 136 votes to 4 and 3 abstentions. Under the agreement the customs barrier between the two countries will disappear and the duties and regulations in force in Belgium will be extended to the Grand Duchy, while the revenue derived from customs and an excise will be equitably divided between the two countries on the basis of population. The Belgian government is also to afford the Grand Duchy the means of restoring its currency on a sound footing. After the armistice the government of the latter country withdrew the German currency from circulation in exchange for a provisional issue of treasury notes at the rate of 1.25 francs per mark. The withdrawals amounted to 200,000,000 marks, and to enable the Luxembourg government to redeem this treasury note issue it is to be allowed to float a loan of 175,000,000 francs in Belgium through the Banque Nationale, bearing interest at 2 per cent, the proceeds to be paid over in Belgian banknotes. Eventually Belgium will relieve the Grand Duchy treasury of its stock of German money. Finally, the railway tariffs of the two countries are to be assimilated, but the method of administration of the Luxembourg railway system is to remain the subject of further negotiations. It is anticipated that, as a result of the convention, Belgium will find a better market for her coal and coke, as also for drawn or rolled zinc, machinery, earthenware and china, window and plate glass, soap and mineral oils, chemical fertilizers, cotton and woolen yarns and fabrics, linen goods and clothing, footwear, colonial produce, and foodstuffs. Antwerp, too, is likely to benefit by a large increase in the export trade of the Luxembourg iron and steel industries, while the Grand Duchy has the prospect of building up a fine market in Belgium for her Moselle wines."

This economic union of Belgium and Luxembourg will doubtless prove of benefit to both. It will surely have a political as well as an economic effect, tending toward political stability. This union of an economic sort gives a hint of what may be accomplished elsewhere in Europe, perhaps in the succession states of the Austrian Empire. Many regrets about the damage done by splitting of big states into little ones have been expressed. If economic unions, or measures of that general nature, can be effected in many of the European states, no regrets over political divisions will be justified.

It is interesting to note that the depreciation of the German mark, through inflation of the paper currency by the German government, has caused a loss in Luxembourg in the value of the 200,000,000 marks converted, as mentioned above. These marks, of course, are worth only a fraction of what they were worth at the end of the war. Apparently, Belgium is to take these German marks off Luxembourg's hands. That will mean that Belgium is to be added to the list—which includes Lithuania and France (because of the exchange of francs for marks in Alsace-Lorraine)—of countries which Germany has really been able to tax through that form of "invisible taxation"—inflated paper currency.

Ultimate Money.

WE HAVE taken occasion in these columns, more than once, to comment on gold as a standard for currency. The state of the international exchanges has made currencies and the theory of money subjects of greater interest than ever in the past. Today, we are inclined to inquire and analyze the whole question of currency. The vast flow of gold to America, the pushing of practically the whole of Europe off the gold standard on account of great issues of paper money, have caused much discussion of the suitability of gold itself as currency or as the base for currency. Before the war, gold was accepted, blindly, without question, as the only proper base for a sound currency. Its durability, its rarity, the difficulty and cost of getting it, the long history and tradition of gold as money, were elements entering into making gold highly desirable as a standard for money. Today, while gold is still universally acknowledged as the best possible standard for money, if the standard is to be metal, economists and monetary experts are giving a good deal of thought to the question of whether or not something quite different might not be a better base for currency than gold.

Gold itself is very little used as actual money. In America, the amount of gold actually in circulation is a trifle. The gold is in the vaults of the United States Treasury. It is paper, which the government guarantees exchangeable for gold, which we use as money. Our silver, nickel and

copper, too, are guaranteed of a certain gold value. But the gold itself, the material upon which our whole monetary structure is raised, is, practically, unseen. We believe the government when it says that the gold is in the Treasury but we never try to get it.

Is it not a strange situation that the material upon which our currency is based, upon which the currency of most of the world is based and upon which the governments of the world still hope to base their currencies in happier times, is not used? After all the effort and hardship expended and suffered in getting gold—except for a little which goes into the arts—the gold is not really used. This is a situation which calls for thought because it suggests that there is a great waste somewhere.

We suggested, once, that Europe might find it easier to establish a wheat currency than to get back to a gold standard. Wheat as currency would have certain advantages over gold. It would be available in great government warehouses in time of war or famine. Because great stocks would be kept on hand, if it were used as currency, its value, with regard to other commodities, would not fluctuate greatly. And, whereas storing gold makes impossible the use of that beautiful metal for the arts, thereby depriving humanity of the aesthetic pleasure it might have from gold, on the other hand, the only proper thing to do with wheat is to store it until used for food products. People do not want to see wheat. So, a wheat standard is not impossible nor illogical.

Yet there is another possibility much more fascinating from a speculative point of view and offering much more likelihood of being the ultimate in money. That is electricity currency. The great development of the future is undoubtedly to be electrical development. America, within relatively few years, will be electrified. Britain talks of harnessing the tides and has other great electrical projects under consideration. Lenin dreams of furnishing all of Russia with electricity. The Rhine-Main-Danube canal is to furnish tremendous power. Italy goes ahead with great projects and so does Austria, poor as she is. The world is being electrified. In times to come, money will be based on units of electricity. Government notes will be good for so many kilowatt-hours of electric current, or whatever other unit is adopted. All commodities will be priced in that unit. All wages will be paid in electricity currency. Discoveries of future forces or methods of utilizing prisoned forces—such as the radioactivity of the atom—will but make money based on electric energy the more necessary and the more logical.

When the world has electricity money, gold will be released for use in the arts and will be mined only for truly useful purposes. Would it not be just as well to stop mining gold for the purpose of sticking it away in a dark vault? If it is mined, in the days of money based on electric current, the results of the miners' labor will give pleasure to humanity through the artistic and utilitarian disposition of gold.

How long before this new sort of money comes? The answer is not easy. Just now, for very practical reasons, a return to the gold standard through the world is ardently to be hoped. But it may not be so very many years before the nations of the world abolish the anachronism of gold as money or a basis for money and adopt electricity instead.

Russia Ready For Concessions.

RECENT press dispatches from Moscow state that the Bolshevik government, becoming alarmed at the encircling grip of the great famine, which, it is said, draws nearer and nearer to the Red army itself, is prepared to make any concessions at the Genoa conference in order to obtain a reconstruction loan for Russia. The Bolshevik leaders are clever men; however twisted their cleverness may be, they know that an unfed army grows rebellious. If it be true that the food supplies are dwindling so that the rations of the Red army are threatened, it is quite likely that dispatches telling of the Bolshevik willingness to yield to any demands put upon them in return for the means of reconstruction are well within the truth.

It is probable, indeed, that the Bolshevik leaders are not only willing to make concessions under pressure, but are anxious to have that pressure brought to bear upon them. Lenin, most of all, would probably welcome being apparently coerced into economic and political measures which he really desires. Lenin is a strong man, however strange his thoughts may be, and he is no fool. It is a characteristic of most strong men to make mistakes. Perhaps Lenin sees his now. He has already marched a long way from communism. Probably he would like to march further. Would he not welcome the chance to tell Russia—to tell the Communist party—that circumstances are such that Russia must move still further to capitalism, that, on account of Russia's misfortunes, she is compelled to accept terms laid down by "capitalistic" nations in order to bring regeneration?

The Cannes meeting laid down certain conditions under which Russia might come to Genoa and, apparently, Russia has accepted those conditions. But it is reasonable to suppose that Russia would go even further, perhaps wants to go further. Some time ago, the London Morning Post published an article which stated that the Bolshevik government had been in touch with Alexander Kerensky and his associates with an idea of forming a coalition government. In view of other developments in Russia, this does not sound improbable. Russia is anxious to get back into the family of nations.

The attitude of the United States government toward Russia has been purely negative. We have said that we would not recognize the Bolshevik government, but we have not stated what action must be taken or events transpire in Russia in order to obtain our recognition. We feed Russia with no longer threatens world revolution. The sufferings of Russia have been sufficient propaganda against Bolshevism, a thousand times too strong for all the propaganda the Bolsheviks can spread. America has nothing to fear from Russia. Is it not possible, then, for America to declare more plainly just what is the American policy toward Russia? Is the time now ripe to say what steps we expect Russia to take to make herself fit and worthy for reception into the family of nations?

Love is eternal, romance everlasting and outlives the jests of the scoffers. Just to prove this, a sea captain's wife in Brooklyn has eloped with a horse doctor.

Life Chester, actress, asks \$50,000 heart balm. That stuff comes so high one might almost believe it was prohibited by constitutional amendment.

Out flew health and influenza.

New York City Day by Day Impressions: by C. C. McIntyre

NEW YORK, March 4.—Perhaps you've seen "The Prune Hat's Daughter" or "More Sinned Against Than Usual" or those delightful bits of burlesque melodrama that recall the good old days of tie-walking actors and candle lighted town halls. They've been running in vaudeville for years and now they are going into the movies.

And then, perhaps, you've seen some of those handsome, dignified illustrators who are the authors of those drawings by Everett Shinn or maybe you have seen some of Shinn's exhibitions in the big galleries in New York. At any rate you would never associate the author of "The Prune Hat's Daughter" with the scholarly paintings of Everett Shinn.

Yet Shinn is responsible for the two extremes. A most versatile young man who has been called the dean of American illustrators. His mural decorations have also set a new standard. He is the fellow who plays the Dux in the "Prune Hat"—an entertainment that brings the top-notch artists to Delmonico's private ball room to don the cap and belt.

Such artists as James Montgomery Flagg, Henry Raleigh, Dean Cornwell, Clarence Underwood, Charles Dana Gibson—who should perhaps be named first—take part in them. They are gay burlesques of the time and the people and anyone of them would have a long run on Broadway if commercialized.

Shinn was born in Woodstock, N. Y., and studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia and later lived in the Montmartre in Paris for several years. Many of his paintings now hang in famous European galleries.

He lives over the Peg Worthington coffee house in Forty-seventh street and has a summer home in the wilds of Maine where he shops wood, hunts deer and runs a small casino two weeks each summer. Chic gets much of his small town vaudeville material while rustling among the rustics at Shinn's place.

Shinn wrote his first vaudeville burlesque skit for private consumption. Arthur Hopkins, one of the high brow producers, saw it and was so impressed that he put it into vaudeville form and it was booked over the big circuit for a year. At the end of the year Shinn thought it had served its usefulness and sold the rights for several hundred dollars.

That was nine years ago and it is still going strong and Shinn spends his spare time sharpening lead pencils and figuring out just how many thousands of dollars he would have received if he had not sold his royalty rights. It has appeared in every city of any size in America and played for nine weeks in New York each year.

Perhaps Shinn's most notable achievement in mural decorations was the painting of the Stuyvesant Theater, New York. It brought artists from every part of the world to see it.

While Shinn is a serious minded student of the arts, he does not wear his hair long. In fact he looks much like the dapper type of Fifth avenue dandy one may see at the parade hour. Sometimes he even plays polo.

He is the life of every party, but at the same time a good audience for others.

Horoscope

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 1922.

Astrologers find this a doubtful day in planetary direction. Mercury is in a strongly benefic aspect in the morning and later Jupiter and Neptune are adverse.

The Friend of the People
Answers to Your Questions

This department is conducted by The Herald to answer questions of its readers. All questions will be answered in these columns. Address letters to The Friend of the People.

PROBABLY AN AMERICAN.

To the Friend of the People:
I considered an American citizen, enlisted in the British forces at Liverpool, England, in 1914. On returning to the United States in 1918 he reported to the immigration inspector as an American citizen, and without any further investigation I considered an American citizen or British citizen, and would this prevent me from taking a government position? My husband died last year.

The husband expatriated himself by taking the oath of allegiance to a foreign country at a time when he was a minor. They were both born in the United States you resumed your American citizenship at the time of your husband's death.

DIVORCE BY FRAUD.
To the Friend of the People:
Could a wife who lived with her husband up to the time he entered the service procure a divorce from him while he was in the service, serving him simply with a notice sent to his old business address? The notice was never received by the man, but returned to the wife.

It seems probable that she is subject to prosecution for perjury, but the divorce may be valid, depending on all the facts. It is important to you we advise you to have the record investigated.

AUTO INSURANCE.
To the Friend of the People:
Last year I insured my car with an auto insurance company and my last assessment was \$1.50, to cover a period from September 1, 1921, to December 31, 1921. I wish to drop the insurance. Can they collect any money from me? I did not pay the last assessment.

Presumably you must pay what has accrued up to date of your withdrawal. Depends on wording of the original agreement and on other facts that are not before us.

INVOLVED LEGAL STATUS.
To the Friend of the People:
Is a common law wife recognized in the States of California and Wyoming? If a couple lived in common law marriage for thirty years, known as man and wife, but not canonically ever having been married, is she entitled to a share of the property when he dies intestate and leaving a child by a former marriage?

The State last which the marriage contract was made. California does not permit such contracts, but would recognize validity of one made in a State that did to them. The status of such marriage in

Wyoming is not clear. It has been held that a common law marriage without license is valid in Wyoming, and that living together may create a common law marriage.

As to the inheritance, much might depend on where he resided at the time of his death and where the property is located. Consult an attorney.

ALL BUT ME.
To the Friend of the People:
Please say which of these expressions is correct:
"All the world is crazy but you and I" or "all the world is crazy but you and me."

The correct way of expressing the statement is, "All the world is crazy but you and me." The word "but" is used in this sentence with the sense of "except." You should say "All except me." "But" and "except" are synonymous prepositions and take the objective case, and "me," not "I," is objective.

MAY BREAK WILL.
To the Friend of the People:
I was married in Missouri last month and I understand that the estate cannot be settled for a year. How long have I to file suit to break the will?

Different times are allowed for appeal from probate and for a bill to contest. If you contemplate action we advise you to go over the facts with an attorney immediately.

MORT FICKLE MAID.
To the Friend of the People:
I was married on August 26, 1920, in Pennsylvania to a girl who had been married once before. Two weeks after our marriage she told me she was not divorced from her first husband. She left me a month later. I am considered married or not. Will I need a divorce or annulment before I can marry again?

The validity of the marriage depends on the truth of what she told you. We advise you to employ an attorney to secure an annulment decree.

OKLAHOMA LANDS.
To the Friend of the People:
I wish to purchase more in detail the Oklahoma plan of purchasing homes in lieu of its bonus to soldiers? How can one make application to benefit by the offer? I enlisted in Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma gives no bonus. We cannot print the details of the plan in this limited space, but for particulars to the secretary of State, Oklahoma City, Okla.

WORTHY MACHINERY MADE NEW BY IRON COAT.
When some iron or steel part of machinery becomes badly worn, it will now be possible to restore its usefulness by giving it a coat of iron, applied by electricity. David G. Kellogg, research engineer and manufacturing company of Pittsburgh, described the successful development of commercial electrolytic deposition of iron at the meeting of the American Electrochemical Society and Metallurgical Engineers in New York.

A worn motor shaft repaired with a coat of iron applied by his new method gave as satisfactory service as a new one. Dr. Kellogg said that as well as steel can be electroplated, and this is expected to prove useful in repair work of special machine parts. Dr. Kellogg's work is an improvement on the method of the British army repair shops, which used the electrolytic method in repairing about 6,000 steel and iron machine parts. Electrodeposition of iron has been practiced for years, but Kellogg's work was undertaken in order to produce pure metallic iron.

Planes flying low were recently utilized in Texas to search for drowned bodies.

Memory Tests

1. What two rivers unite and form the Ohio?
2. What was the name given to the Federal army that fought at Gettysburg?
3. Who was Jean LaFitte?
4. What island near New York bears the same name as an island near Cape Horn?
5. How long is one link in linear measure?
6. What plague caused more deaths than the combined wars of the world?
7. Where is Abyssinia located? Who is the ruler of Abyssinia?
8. When, where and by whom was the first "hot air" balloon made and successfully sent up?
9. What is the color of the sun?
10. What is the most ancient written language?
- Answers to Yesterday's Questions.
1. Where is Cape Horn? Who owns it? Southernmost part of South America. Chile.
2. What is the nickname for Battling Nelson, former heavyweight boxing champion? The Durable Dane.
3. Who is called the greatest of Italian painters? What palace has many of his best work on its walls? Michelangelo's "David" and Julius Caesar's "The Durable Dane."
4. Who is the United States' Minister to China? Jacob Gould Schurman.
5. To whom does Isle Royale in Lake Superior belong? To the United States.
6. What are pampas? Heavily grassed plains in the interior of South America.
7. In what year was the Louisiana purchase made? How much territory was annexed? 1803. 827,987 square miles.
8. Where does the quotation "parting is sweet sorrow" occur? In Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet."
9. Which is our most densely populated state? Rhode Island. 568.4 per square mile.
10. How many islands in the Philippine group? 1,000.

The Herald's Scientific Notes and Comment

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 1922.

A close connection has frequently been found to exist between the appearance of sunspots and magnetic storms on the earth. As a result the advent of an unusually large sunspot is likely to be taken as a forerunner of auroal displays and other forms of magnetic disturbances. Though there is, undoubtedly, direct connection between the two phenomena in some instances, there are other times when sunspots come and go without, apparently, the slightest effect on the earth's magnetism. At the present time there is an unusually large group of sunspots visible and no magnetic effects due to the presence of this group have been observed as yet, although the group has been visible long enough to make its presence felt.

The severe magnetic storms that attended the appearance of the great sunspot group of May, 1912, on the other hand, were the direct result of the unusual solar activity that accompanied the appearance of this group. The passage of this remarkable group over the sun's central meridian was attended, moreover, by a brilliant auroral display that was visible over the greater part of the northern hemisphere.

Why some sunspot groups are attended by magnetic storms on the earth while others are not is a question of great magnetic storms, earth currents, auroral displays and kindred phenomena are produced as a result of the penetration of the earth's atmosphere by a stream of electrically charged particles from sunspot areas on the sun, then it is evident that the earth will not be affected unless it chances to come within range of this stream of electrically charged particles. The sunspot region as it is carried around by the sun's rotation on its axis. The earth would be unaffected by the presence of a large group of spots unless it chanced to be in a position to intercept the shaft of electrified particles emanating from the sunspot area.

Dr. L. A. Bauer, director of the Department of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, who has made an extensive study of sunspots in their relation to terrestrial magnetic storms, has found that the frequency of magnetic storms varies in a close connection between the amount of variation in sunspot numbers and magnetic phenomena. A noticeable variation in sunspot numbers from month to month as well as from year to year, and shows how directly dependent such terrestrial phenomena are upon the activity of the sun as indicated by the appearance and disappearance of sunspots.

Dr. Bauer has also found that the sunspot records covering a period of 172 years show that the earth is in turn exerting a slight electrical effect upon sunspots, that is, the earth is sending back to the sun some of the electrified particles that it originally received from the sun.

SUGGESTS BONUS VOTE.
To the Editor, The Washington Herald:
The administration and the Congress are at their wits' end in regard to the soldier bonus. They don't know which way to turn, so greatly perplexed are they over the problem. The Congress looks to the President, and the President, in turn, looks to Congress to find a way out of the dilemma. There is too much political and too little common sense and too little courage manifested in a solution of the question. They appear to act as though they were between the devil and the deep sea—that they will be "damned" if they do, and "damned" if they don't pass a bonus bill.

If the Congress would exercise the common sense and courage of Mr. Melrose, the secretary of the Treasury, they would vote without a moment's hesitation: "The present time is inopportune to saddle more billions upon the overburdened taxpayers of the country," and thus end the matter. I verily believe if left to a vote of the soldiers themselves whether or not, in the present financial and economic condition of the country, a bonus should be given them now, or postponed until the country is in a better financial condition, a large majority would vote for a postponement. I should be sorry to believe that every soldier in the field of battle, and I'm persuaded they have lost none of the fiber they manifested then. They can trust the American people to do them justice. In the duty of every citizen to uphold the law, the soldier should be a defender as the United States, or approached anything like it. The disabled are being cared for, and the soldiers who returned sound in body and limb from the European battlefields have said, "Look after those first." Courage, self-denial and sacrifice are qualities not confined to the battlefield. Men who remained at home displayed the same high qualities by doing their duty in support of the government in various ways. And it is the duty of every citizen to uphold the law and to interest in the welfare of the country. Indeed, there is no call to service at this present time paramount to this.

JUSTINIAN.

LETTING HIM OUT.
From the Detroit Free Press.
"I have had news for you, Clarence. 'So'."

"Yes. I visited a fortune teller, this afternoon and she told me that I am going to marry a handsome man."